

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A floor mat system comprising:

a mat having a flexible body that defines a plurality of flow-through openings each having a cross-sectional configuration; the flexible body being formed as a single unit;

the flexible body having an upper surface and a lower surface;

each of the flow-through openings defining a flow path that extends from the upper surface of the flexible body to the lower surface of the flexible body;

the body defining a plurality of spaced material strip-receiving slots that open to the upper surface of the flexible body;

each of the slots having a longitudinal direction and a cross-sectional configuration which is different than the cross-sectional configuration of the flow-through openings;

the plurality of flow-through openings including a plurality of flow-through openings intermediate each adjacent pair of slots;

~~the flexible body being flexible about at least one reference line that is perpendicular to the longitudinal direction of the slot;~~

a material strip disposed in each of the slots; and

each material strip being removably and re-attachably connected to the flexible body.

2. (original) The floor mat system of claim 1, wherein the body defines a support structure at the bottom of each slot; the material strip being connected to the support structure.

3. (original) The floor mat system of claim 2, wherein the flexible body defines a drainage opening in each slot.

4. (original) The floor mat system of claim 2, further comprising hook and loop fasteners that removably and reattachably connect the material strip to the flexible body.
5. (original) The floor mat system of claim 1, wherein no portion of the flexible body overhangs the material strip.
6. (original) The floor mat system of claim 1, wherein the flexible body is fabricated from rubber.
7. (original) The floor mat system of claim 1, wherein the flexible body is fabricated from plastic.
8. (original) The floor mat system of claim 1, wherein each material strip has a first width; each slot having a second width; the second width being greater than the first width.
9. (original) The floor mat system of claim 1, further comprising hook and loop fasteners providing the removable and re-attachable connection between the material strips and the flexible body.
10. (canceled)
11. (original) The floor mat system of claim 1, wherein each of the material strips has an upper surface; the upper surfaces of the material strips being disposed above the upper surface of the flexible body when the material strips are disposed in the slots.
12. (original) The floor mat system of claim 1, wherein the slots are parallel and spaced apart from one another.

13. (currently amended) A floor mat system comprising:

a flexible, flow-through mat having a body fabricated from a plurality of non-metal intersecting upper and lower ribs; the upper ribs being elongated in a first substantially horizontal direction and the lower ribs being elongated in a second substantially horizontal direction transverse to the first direction;

the upper ribs being parallel and defining a plurality of material strip-receiving slots each having a cross-sectional configuration;

the upper ribs defining a plurality of flow-through openings intermediate each adjacent pair of slots; each flow-through opening having a cross-sectional configuration different than the cross-sectional configuration of the slots;

a material strip removably and reattachably connected to the mat body in each of the slots; and

the mat defining at least one drain opening adapted to allow liquid to drain out of the slot.

14. (original) The floor mat system of claim 13, wherein the slots are parallel and spaced apart from one another.

15. (original) The floor mat system of claim 13, wherein each of the material strips has an upper surface; the upper surfaces of the material strips being disposed above the upper surface of the flexible body when the material strips are disposed in the slots.

16. (canceled)

17. (original) The floor mat system of claim 13, further comprising hook and loop fasteners providing the removable and re-attachable connection between the material strips and the flexible body.

18. (original) The floor mat system of claim 17, wherein each material strip has a first width; each slot having a second width; the second width being greater than the first width.
19. (original) The floor mat system of claim 18, wherein the body defines a support structure at the bottom of each slot; the material strip being connected to the support structure.
20. (original) The floor mat system of claim 19, wherein no portion of the flexible body overhangs the material strip.
21. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein the flexible body is molded as an integral one-piece member.
22. (New) The system of claim 13 wherein each flow-through opening is bounded by an adjacent pair of upper ribs and an adjacent pair of lower ribs.
23. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein each material strip-receiving slot has attachment means for connecting one of the material strips to the flexible body; and wherein each flow-through opening is free of attachment means for connecting one of the material strips to the body.
24. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein each slot has a width and each flow-through opening has a width which is no more than one third the width of each slot.
25. (New) The system of claim 1 wherein each slot has a width and each flow-through opening has a width which is no more than one fourth the width of each slot.

26. (New) The system of claim 13 wherein each material strip-receiving slot has attachment means for connecting one of the material strips to the flexible body; and wherein each flow-through opening is free of attachment means for connecting one of the material strips to the body.

27. (New) A floor mat system comprising:

- a flexible, flow-through mat having a body including a plurality of intersecting upper and lower elongated ribs;

- the upper ribs being parallel and defining a plurality of parallel material strip-receiving slots there between; each slot having a length, a width, and a cross-sectional configuration;

- each lower rib extending transversely to the length of the slots and spanning the respective widths of at least two adjacent slots;

- the upper ribs defining a plurality of flow-through openings intermediate each adjacent pair of slots; each flow-through opening having a cross-sectional configuration different than the cross-sectional configuration of the slots;

- a material strip removably and re-attachably connected to the mat body in each of the slots; and

- the mat defining at least one drain opening associated with each slot for allowing liquid to drain out of the slot.

28. (New) The system of claim 27 wherein the lower ribs span the entire mat body.

29. (New) The system of claim 27 wherein each material strip-receiving slot has attachment means for connecting one of the material strips to the flexible body; and wherein each flow-through opening is free of attachment means for connecting one of the material strips to the body.